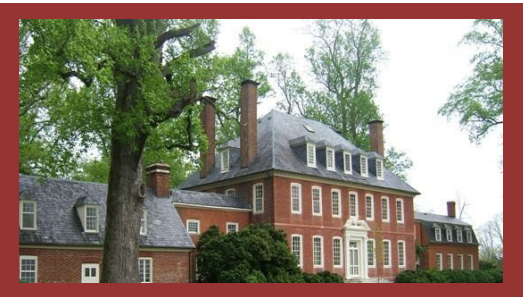


Evening Talks:  
Plantations of the James River

On 6/12, we explore the five James River plantations, their historic significance, and efforts to preserve them for future generations.

6:30 p.m. at the Williamsburg Library.

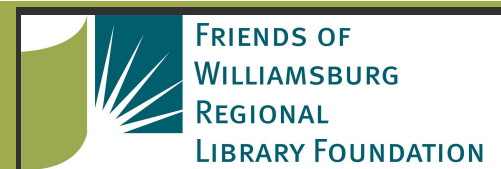


Thursday Film Series

This Month: Color-Themed Movie Titles

- 6/7 - *The Blue Dahlia*
- 6/14 - *Black Narcissus*
- 6/21 - *The White Tower*
- 6/28 - *The Red Danube*

All feature films begin at 2 p.m. in the Williamsburg Library Theatre. Find complete film descriptions on our calendar at [www.wrl.org/events/films](http://www.wrl.org/events/films).



Special Giving Opportunity

Good news for those age 70 ½ and older: you can make tax-free gifts to the Friends of Williamsburg Regional Library Foundation directly from your IRA, up to \$100,000 every year. Even better, these gifts count toward your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

This popular provision of the tax code, made permanent in 2015, applies to all qualified donors whether or not you itemize.

While these charitable IRA distributions are non-deductible, they:

- Do not increase your taxable income and are therefore tax-free
- Count toward your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)
- Can be used to make your annual gifts and pledge payments to the Friends of WRL Foundation for unrestricted support, endowment, and other purposes

Only donors age 70 ½ qualify and these gifts can only be made from Traditional or Roth IRAs. Qualified charitable distributions can be made throughout the year but checks must be postmarked by December 31. Check with your financial advisor to determine if a Charitable IRA distribution is right for you. For more information about the Charitable IRA Rollover, contact Benjamin Goldberg, Library Development Officer at 757.259.4042 or visit us at [www.wrl.org/give](http://www.wrl.org/give)

Summer Reading Is For Everyone



All Ages Summer Reading Kick-Off Party

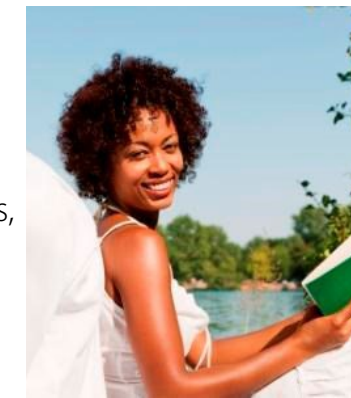
Join us June 17 on the Williamsburg Library Plaza from 1-4 p.m. to kick off Summer Reading in style! We'll have a balloon artist, a strolling juggler/magician, giant board games, a henna artist, an inflatable slide, book recycling crafts, and a DJ spinning tunes all afternoon. We hope to see you there!

Adult Summer Reading: New This Year!

Registration Begins: June 11

Program Runs: June 11-August 31

Now adults can get in on the summer reading fun! For every four books you log, you'll win a scratch-off card offering a chance to win a pint glass, a WRL tote bag, or gift certificates for local businesses. Post reviews of the books you read online through Beanstack and we may feature your review on our Facebook page. Everyone who meets the four-book goal will also be entered in a drawing for one of two grand prizes.

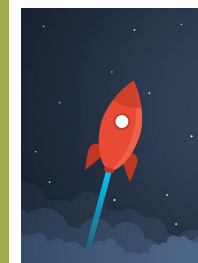


Kids' Summer Reading Program: Reading Takes You Everywhere

Registration Begins: June 11

Window to Share Titles: June 18-August 12

Kids will collect buttons, coupons, and virtual badges as they log their reading and share titles. New this year: Beanstack is launching a mobile app for Apple and Android devices. Download Beanstack Tracker to log your reading on the go.



Teens' Summer Reading: #GameOn

Registration Begins: June 11

Window to Share Titles: June 18-August 12

Rising 6th through rising 12th graders can earn scratch-off tickets with each visit to the library, which may give them a chance to pick an item from our ever-changing prize bin (featuring gadgets, gift certificates, books, and more).



Sign up online at [wrl.beanstack.org](http://wrl.beanstack.org) to track your progress from your computer and mobile device, or get a paper log at either library location or our MLS vehicles. Head to [www.wrl.org/summer-reading](http://www.wrl.org/summer-reading) for more info.



## Featured Events for Kids



### Sphero Light Painting

6/19 and 6/21, 2 p.m.

James City County Library (6/19)  
Williamsburg Library (6/21)

Combine art and technology using Sphero robots! Participants of all ages will create collaborative "light paintings" using long-exposure photography and programmable Sphero robots.

### DIY Night – Make Slime

6/27, 6:30 p.m., Williamsburg Library

It's ooey goey slime time! Be ready to get your hands dirty as you play with cornstarch, food coloring, and other materials, then take your creations home to enjoy. For ages 9-18. Registration is required and begins 6/11; call 757.259.4055.

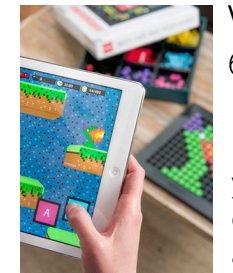
### Teeny Tiny Farm Petting Zoo

6/30, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., James City County Library

Come meet over 10 different miniature farm animals, including a miniature horse, miniature donkey, miniature cow, miniature pig, and more.

Check out all this month's great kids events and more at [www.wrl.org/kids](http://www.wrl.org/kids).

## Featured Events for Teens



### Video Game Building with Bloxels

6/17, 2-4 p.m.

Williamsburg Library

Use the app and a design board to create your own video game and customize your own character, graphics, and layout! For ages 11-18; register at 757.259.4050.

### Teens Night Out

6/22, 7-9 p.m., James City County Library

After hours fun for teens in the library with gaming, food, and more! RSVP at 757.259.4050.

### Teen Dungeons & Dragons

6/23, 1-4 p.m., Williamsburg Library

Join us to learn and play! Register at 757.259.4050.

### Teen String Art

6/29, 2-3 p.m., Williamsburg Library

Create a design with hammer, nails and string. For ages 11-18; register at 757.259.4050.

Check out all this month's great teen events and more at [www.wrl.org/teens](http://www.wrl.org/teens).

## Featured Events for Adults



### The Chemistry of Cooking

6/26, 6 p.m.

James City County Library

William & Mary chemistry professor and food enthusiast Tyler Meldrum leads a lecture on the chemistry of food. He will discuss the classes of molecules found in foods, how those molecules are affected by heat, and what happens when multiple types of food molecules mix together. Scrumptious!

### Dewey Decibel Concert Series: York River Concert Band

6/19, 7:30 p.m., Williamsburg Library

Join us for an enjoyable evening of music with this local favorite ensemble.

### Beginning Yoga

6/20, 6 p.m., Williamsburg Library

Rebecca Merrick will teach you basic poses in this introductory yoga class.

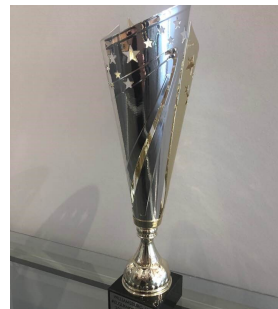
### Team Spelling Bee

6/24, 2 p.m., Williamsburg Library

Come out for our second anniversary Summer Spelling Bee! Each team must have one teen participant. Call in advance and get your team signed up at 757.259.4050.

Find all of this month's library programs & classes at [www.wrl.org/events](http://www.wrl.org/events).

## WRL Takes Home Top Honors



WRL is happy to share that we recently won two statewide awards from the Virginia Public Library Director's Association (VPLDA), highlighting two major initiatives we've undertaken in the course of the past year.

We took home the Outstanding Public Relations Project award for our efforts while competing for the Engaging Local Government Leaders (ELGL) Leslie B. Knope Award for "Best Public Library," as well as the Outstanding Program in Cooperation with Another Organization award for the *Profiles of Honor* program that was held at the Williamsburg Library last summer. WRL competed against other libraries that serve a population of 80,000 or more people, the largest of the three size categories that VPLDA recognizes.

## Americans' Forgotten Love Affair with Opera



The current popular American image of opera is not an entirely positive one. The impression of opera as a bombastic, pretentious, and affected art form has a lineage dating back to the 19th century, when many other popular art forms pulled no punches in their ridicule of European opera. Popular performers burlesqued both works and artists, wags like John Swaby (aka "Scrici") published pseudo-serious satires (*The Physiology of the Opera*), and Mark Twain claimed (in *A Tramp Abroad*) that attending an operatic performance included "banging and slamming and booming and crashing" and was akin to going to the dentist.

In her new book, author and William & Mary professor Katherine Preston takes a closer look at 19th century Americans' relationship to opera, and finds that, despite their appetite for performers and writers who poked fun at the art form, a large number of middle-class Americans thoroughly enjoyed attending operatic performances on a regular basis. In fact, Preston makes the case that opera actually became a dominant musical force during this time period, permeating the American soundscape.

Preston will be discussing her book *Opera for the People* in a free and informative talk on June 5 at 2 p.m. at the Stryker Center.

## Take Your Library With You This Summer

Did you know that you can access books, music, magazines, and audiobooks from WRL wherever you are? With your library card, an internet connection, and our downloadable content, checking out and reading or listening is easy. WRL provides over 15,000 ebooks, 9,500 downloadable audiobooks, streaming and downloading music from the entire Sony music catalog, and 85 digital magazines.

With a mixture of bestsellers, classic titles, and collections for kids and teens, there is something in the library's digital collections for all tastes and interests. Mystery fans will find not only hot authors like James Patterson and David Baldacci, but can also revisit Golden Age crime fiction by Dorothy Sayers, Rex Stout, and Ngaio Marsh. Music fans can stream three hours of ad-free music every day from Sony's catalog of millions of songs, and select from curated playlists of great songs.

Each of these digital collections can be enjoyed via apps on tablets, mobile devices, and PCs. Find out how to get started at [www.wrl.org/digital](http://www.wrl.org/digital), and take your library with you this summer wherever you go.



This spring AARP Tax Aide wrapped up its 35th year of partnering with WRL to bring free tax help to our community. Over 3,000 Federal tax returns were filed for over 4,000 clients, bringing \$3,730,326 back to the community in refunds. Thanks again to our wonderful Tax Aide volunteers, who dedicated over 11,000 hours of their time, for another great tax season.